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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MADISON *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/612,466

Conf. No.: 8608

Filed: July 1, 2003

For: **NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES
ENCODING SERINE PROTEASE 16, THE
ENCODED POLYPEPTIDES AND
METHODS BASED THEREON**

Art Unit: 1632

Cust. No.: 20985

Examiner: Unknown

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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

7/16/04
Date Stephanie L. Seidman

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-captioned patent application entry of the following amendment is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 38 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 54 of this paper.